

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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May 20, 2003

FROM: **RAYMOND B. WINGERD**, Chief Probation Officer
 Probation Department

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR GRANT TO IMPLEMENT AND FUND A GANG
 REDUCTION AND SUPPRESSION PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve grant application to the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning in the amount of \$191,502, to implement and fund the Gang Reduction and Suppression Program, for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Over the last ten years, the Probation Department has attempted to combine efforts with other organizations to employ a wide range of gang intervention strategies to address issues related to street gangs and the plague of violence caused by gang-related crime. Twice over the last twenty years, Probation has also formed gang units that have focused primarily on supervision of youth; however, the GRASP program includes the additional necessary component of programming.

With approximately 21,000 gang members in 245 separate groups countywide, nearly fifty percent represent youth under the age of eighteen. Nearly all probation caseloads contain gang members, however, no gang-reduction program is currently offered by the Probation Department.

The Department is seeking grant funding to implement the Gang Reduction and Suppression Program (GRASP). The GRASP program will initially target gang members ages 13 to 18 in cities and unincorporated areas of the County within the supervision of the Department's Central Juvenile Division, with the flexibility of expanding to additional regions of the County based on future opportunities. Comprehensive objectives have been developed with the goal to reduce recidivism of gang-related crimes during and after the program. Performance measurement will be utilized to analyze behavior and assess program effectiveness.

Components of the program include:

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| ▪ identification and referral process | ▪ parental empowerment concepts |
| ▪ case management plans | ▪ court-ordered classroom instruction |
| ▪ home contacts by probation officers | ▪ staff & organization training system |

The Department has secured a number of operational agreements with a variety of agencies such as the District Attorney, Superior Court, and the San Bernardino City Unified School District as an expression of cooperation. These organizations have agreed to work with the Probation Department to implement GRASP. Personnel will be trained to recognize youth who ought to be referred to the program. The organizations will also provide guest speakers on a volunteer basis.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APPLICATION FOR GRANT TO IMPLEMENT AND FUND A GANG REDUCTION AND SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

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This grant application is in response to an RFP from the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP). Funding is made available to states from the Title II Delinquency Prevention and Intervention Program. The funding period is July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006 with awarded funding in 12-month increments, not to exceed 36 months total. Continued funding will require an annual application process and an evaluation of the effectiveness in achieving program goals and objectives. First-year funding for the GRASP program is primarily for the positions of two probation officers to operate and oversee the program. Other required program expenditures include a vehicle, motorpool expenses, clerical assistance, and administrative overhead for a total annual grant request of \$191,502.

To assure continuity of the GRASP program and avoid elimination when funding is terminated, the Department has developed a long-term strategy. Four volunteers within the Department's Associate Probation Officer (APO) program will work closely with two full-time probation officers for creation of referral, risk assessment, and case management plans, and coordination with other agencies and class speakers. These volunteers will be assigned to the program at its inception, in preparation of transition of class programming and training to the APO program. Through training and exposure to the GRASP program, the Department intends to transition from a specialized program operated by two full time Probation officers, to supervision and treatment practiced by all probation officers as a standard process for gang involved minors with time intensive duties, such as the twelve-week class, to be handled by the APO program.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by the County Counsel (Dawn Stafford, Deputy County Counsel) on May 7, 2003, and the County Administrative Office (Vicki Kratzke, Administrative Analyst) on May 13, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of submission of this application requires no County local cost. If the application is approved by OCJP, the County is obligated to administer the program as outlined and the Department will return to the Board with the award notification and recommendations for appropriating the anticipated \$191,502. The Department would prefer to fill the two positions with existing staff, however, in light of current budget conditions, it may be necessary to request two new positions at the time of award notification. In the absence of continued funding, staff hired as a result of this grant will be assigned to vacant positions, demoted, or laid off at the end of the funding period.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): Second, Third & Fifth Districts

PRESENTER: Melvin L. Rinewalt, Deputy Chief Probation Officer (909) 387-5855